Integrating, not Othering: Diversity in the EFL Classroom

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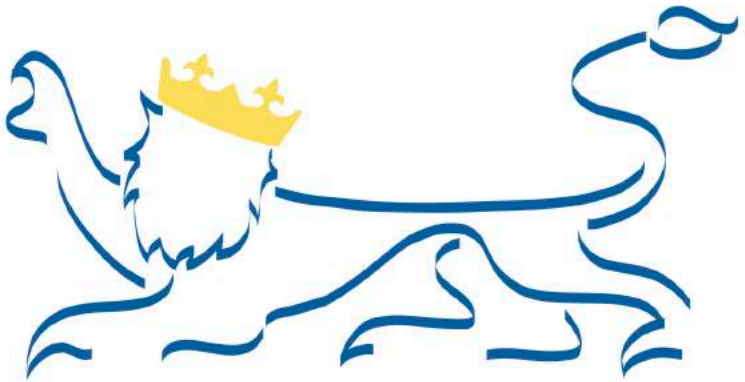

Who are our learners?

- Age
- Nationality
- Purpose of study
- Length of stay
- Interests
- **Religion**
- **Gender**
- **Sexuality**

Part of our Role

- Encourage learners to speak about themselves
- Help learners understand what they see and hear around them
- Create a safe learning environment

Identity in the Classroom, Katy Thomas

As ELT practitioners we have a legal responsibility under the **Prevent Duty** to:

- “promote social and cultural diversity, equality of opportunity and inclusion”
- “plan and deliver effective learning programmes for diverse groups in a safe and inclusive environment”
- “encourage students to respect other people with particular regard to protected characteristics”

Inspection Criteria

Course design and implementation

T16 Courses will include strategies which ensure that students can develop their language skills outside the classroom and **benefit linguistically** from their stay in the UK.

Unavoidable Issues

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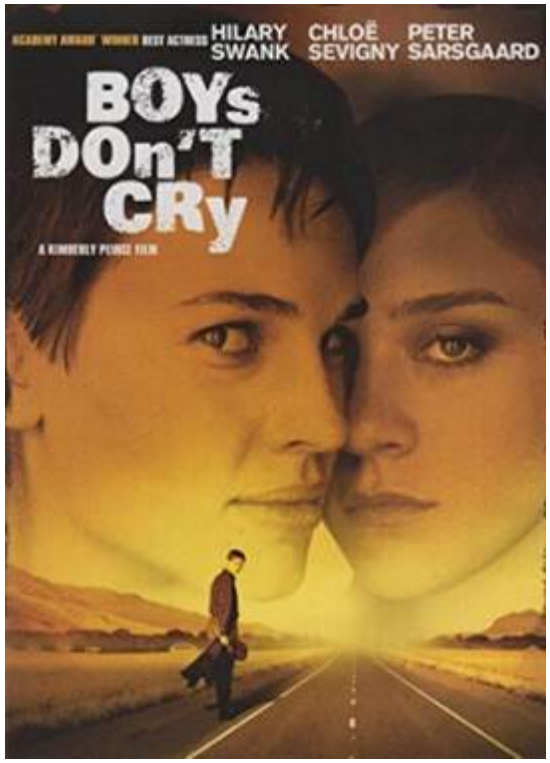
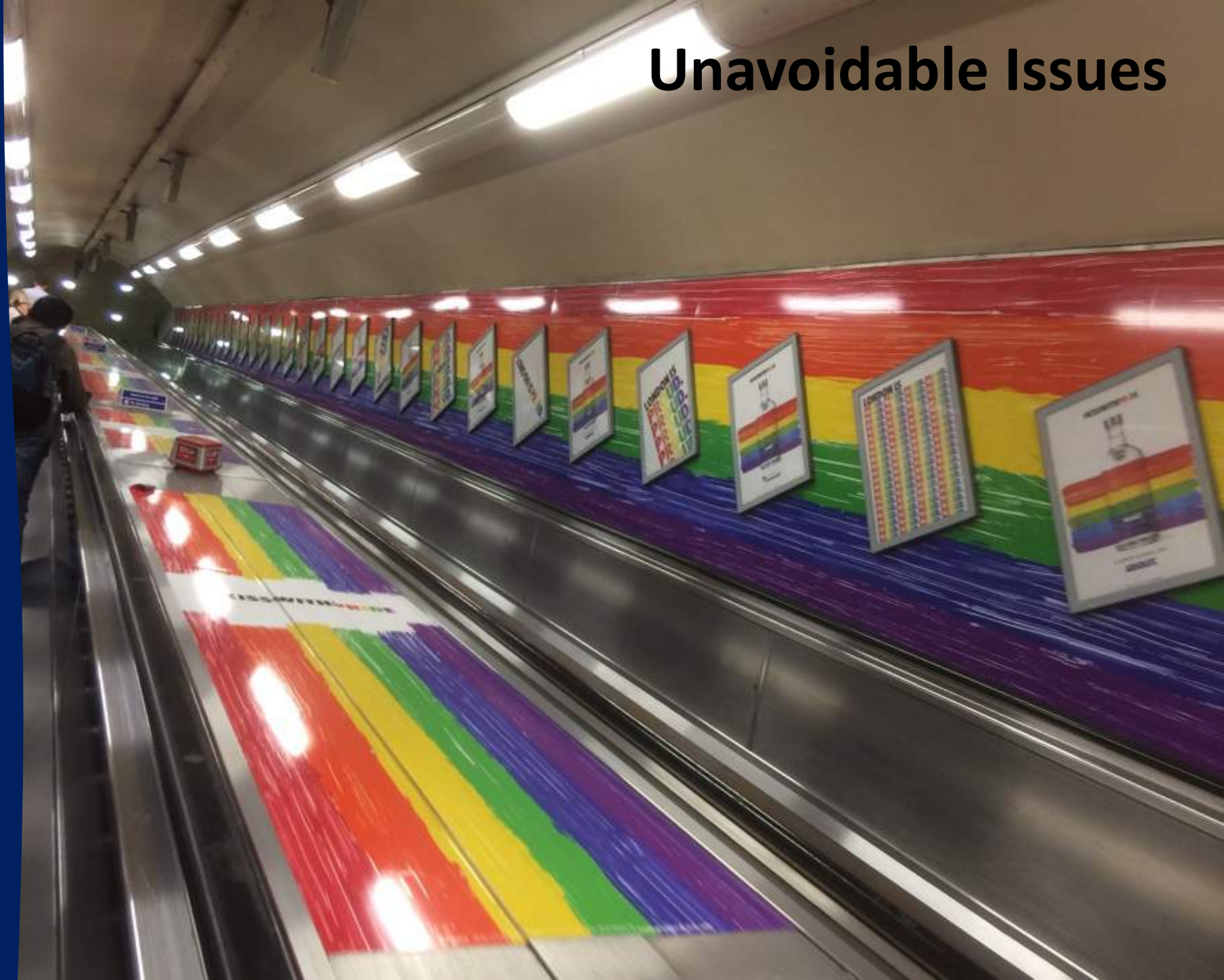


Unavoidable Issues



Unavoidable Issues

Classrooms should include “space for students to speak honestly as themselves, an affordance increasingly seen as crucial in the development of second language proficiency”

Moore. 2014. 1

Potential for queer issues to arise?

- Tell us a little bit about yourself.
- Describe your family tree to your partner.
- What did you do this weekend?
- Have you seen any good films lately?
- Who are the people in the photos?

Who are the people in the photos?

How do they know each other?

Giovanni

Sam

PARSNIP
• Politics
• Alcohol
• Religion
• Sex
• Narcotics
• -Isms
• Pork

"LGBT **invisibility** and heteronormativity are very much the order of the day"

Gray. 2013

The family

VOCABULARY BANK

a Look at the two family trees. Number the people in relation to Richard.

1 aunt /ɑːnt/
2 brother /ˈbrʌðə/
3 cousin /ˈkʌzn/
4 daughter /ˈdɔːtə/
5 father /ˈfɑːðə/
6 grandfather /ˈgrænfɑːðə/
7 grandmother /ˈgrænmʌðə/
8 mother /ˈmʌðə/
9 nephew /ˈnefjuː/
10 niece /niːs/
11 sister /ˈsɪstə/
12 son /sʌn/
13 uncle /ˈʌŋkl/
14 wife /waɪf/

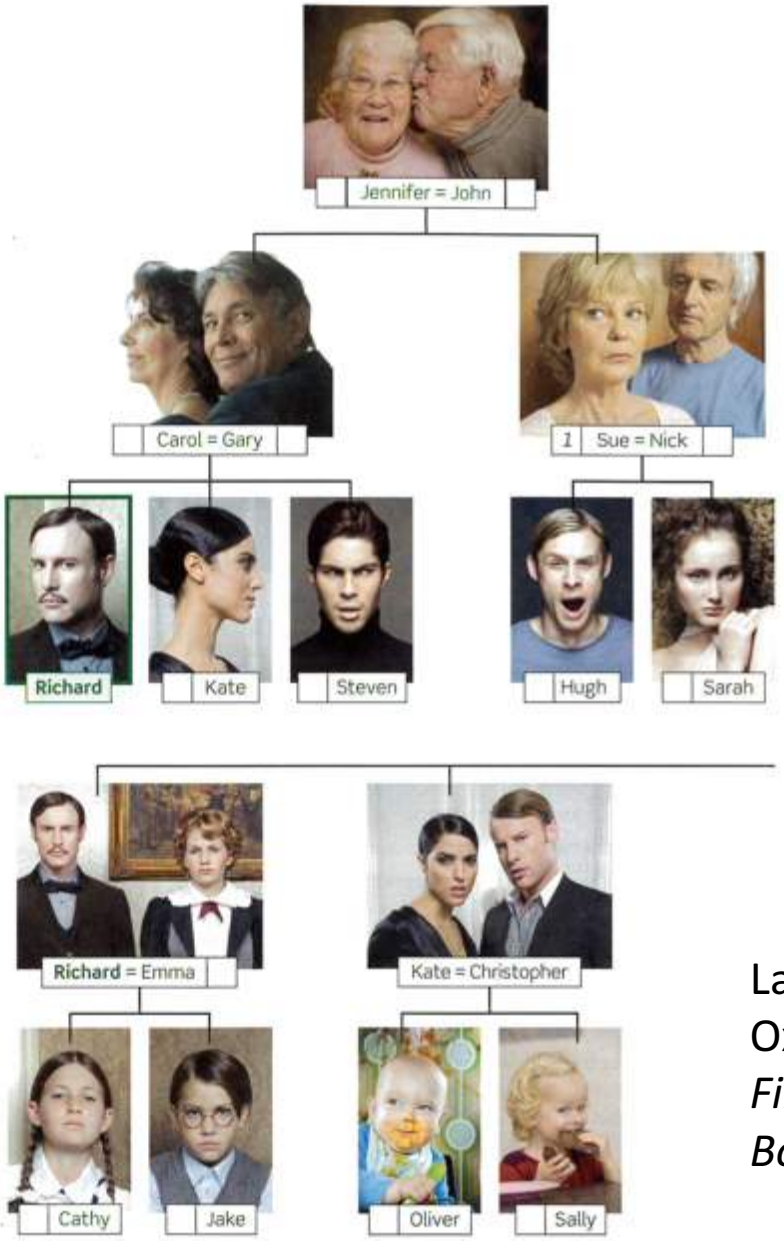
b Complete 1–3 with *children*, *grandparents*, *parents*.

1 my father and my mother = my _____ /ˈpeərənts/
2 my grandfather and my grandmother = my _____ /ˈgrænpeərənts/
3 my son and my daughter = my _____ /ˈtʃɪldrən/

c 2 32 Listen and check your answers to **a** and **b**.

More family words
My wife's mother = my **mother-in-law**; My sister's husband = my **brother-in-law**, etc.
My mother's second husband = my **stepfather**
My father's daughter from another wife = my **stepsister**

d Cover the words. In pairs, ask and answer.



PARSNIP Snip

Latham-Koenig, C. and Oxenden, C. 2012. *English File Elementary Student's Book*. OUP. 55

PARSNIP Snip

Petra: 'It [1] _____ one night at our local nightclub. I was dancing, and suddenly I [2] _____ the feeling that someone was watching me. I looked around and saw a boy on the other side of the room staring at me. I [3] _____ to be brave and walked over to him. Hans was very shy but we had a drink and started talking. We just clicked and we quickly became friends.'

Petra, 19 and Hans, 20 (Germany)

Simon, 42 and Ricardo, 46 (Argentina)

Ricardo: 'It was New Year's Eve and I [4] _____ some people around to my house to celebrate. I planned a quiet party but my friends brought other friends and by twelve o'clock there were lots of people. I was making some drinks in the kitchen when I noticed this guy on his own. He didn't seem to know anybody, so I [5] _____ over to him and [6] _____ myself. He said, "So you're not Antonio, then?!" He was at the wrong party – he had made a mistake with the address! I asked him to stay and we got on really well ... and now we're together.'

Framework Level 2 Student's Book. **2003.** 16

PARSNIP Snip

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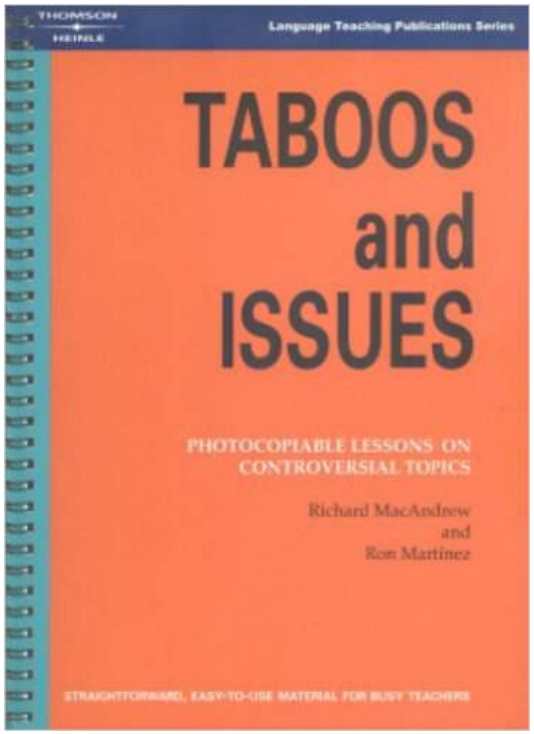
Ricardo: 'It was New Year's Eve and I [4] _____ some people around to my house to celebrate. I planned a quiet party but my friends brought other friends and by twelve o'clock there were lots of people. I was making some drinks in the kitchen when I noticed this woman on her own. She didn't seem to know anybody, so I [5] _____ over to her and [6] _____ myself. She said, "So you're not Antonio, then?!" She was at the wrong party – she had made a mistake with the address! I asked her to stay and we got on really well ... and now we're together.'

New *Framework Level 2 Student's Book.* **2008.** 16

Othering in Action



AIDS

What do you know bout AIDS? Would you treat your friend differently if you knew (s)he had HIV?

Changing Sex

Transsexuals – would you feel uncomfortable if you sat next to a transsexual?

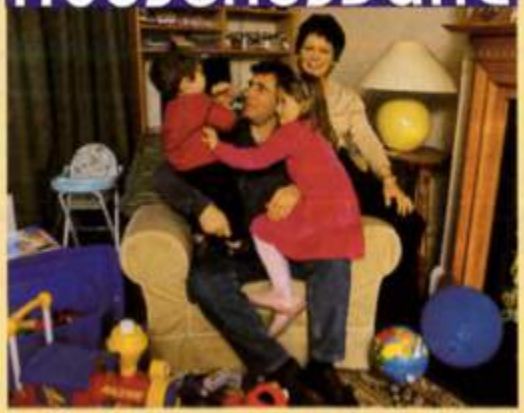
Gay Families

Two dads and no mum. What is a normal family these days?

McAndrew & Martinez. 2002. *Taboos & Issues.*

Othering in Action

Househusband



It's early evening and Mike Beaver, 41, is sitting in the living room of his suburban house near London. He's reading to his daughter Louise, six, and his baby son Eddie is playing with his toys. Aha, you think, Mike has come home from work and he's enjoying quality time with his children.

But you'd be wrong. Mike is a house-husband. He looks after the children full-time, and he does the same things any housewife does. He wakes the children up and gives them their breakfast, takes Louise to school, and one day a week takes Eddie to the nursery. Then he cleans the house, does the shopping, and picks the children up from school. He makes dinner for his wife Tina. Then he puts the children to bed – all while she's at work.

Tina is the director of a PR firm in London so she earns a good salary, but she works long hours. She goes to work at 7.00 in the morning and she often doesn't get home until 8 p.m., when the children are usually asleep, so she hardly ever sees them during the week. But at the weekend they spend time together. They go shopping, go for a family walk, the children sometimes invite friends over, and in the evening they all sit in front of the television. For these two days, Tina forgets her career, and she enjoys being with the children.

'Many people, especially men, don't believe me, but I'm enjoying life. I'm doing what I want to do,' says Mike. And what does Tina think? 'It means that I can have a career, which I love. And I admire Mike for being so good at what he does – he does a better job than I ever could!' she says with a smile.

- What do you think of Mike's **'job'**?
- Could you be like Mike? **Would you** marry someone like Mike?

Clockwise Pre-Intermediate. 2003. 64

“Discussing controversial issues will help students use skills in negotiation, agreeing, disagreeing, explaining an opinion, and justifying, etc.”

Tekin. 2011. 84

“It is important **not** to set up tasks that ask students to evaluate or judge lesbian/gay people – that is, whether ‘they’ are moral, normal or natural”

Nelson. 2009. 213

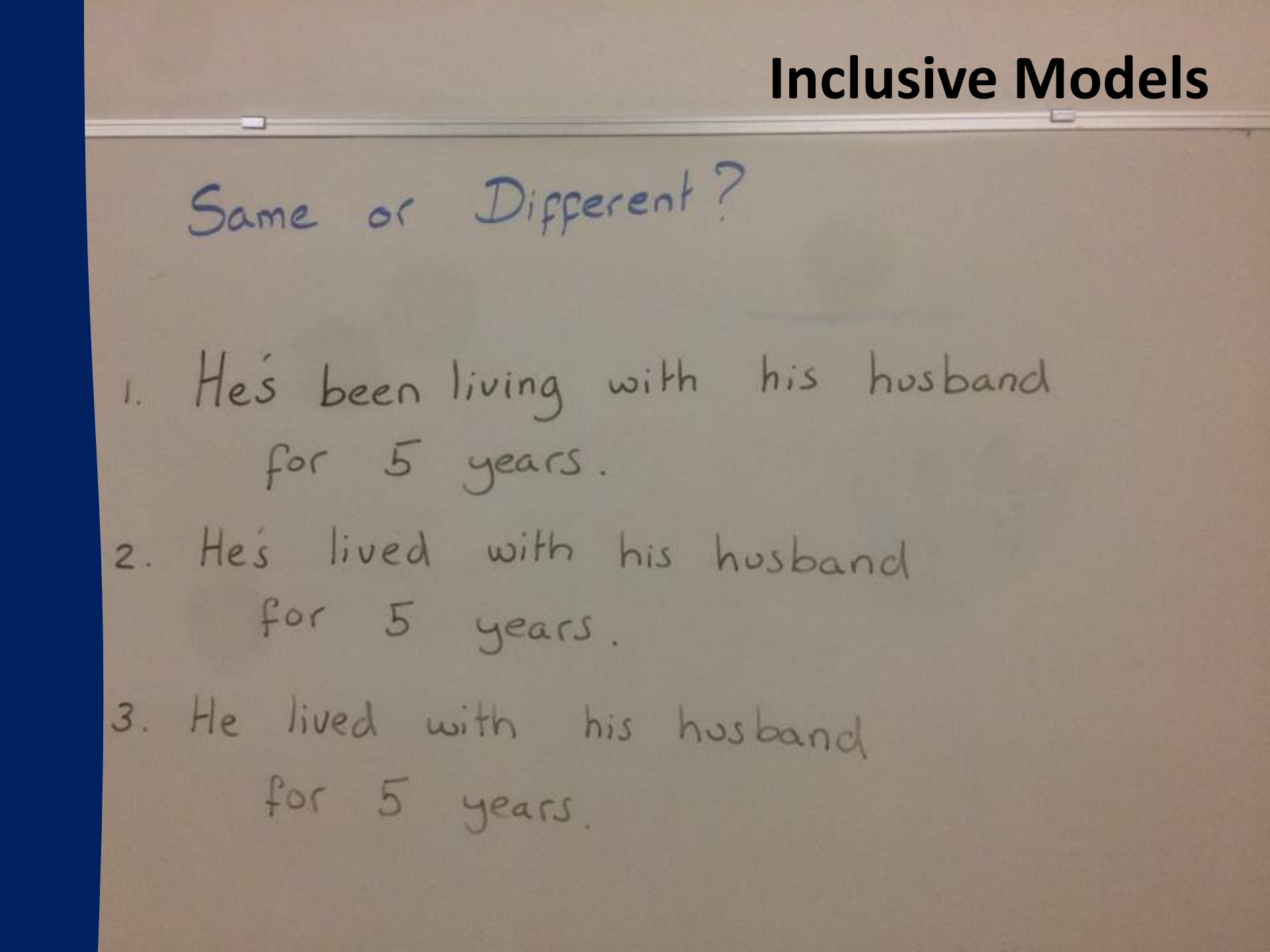
Could also include:

- race
- disability
- religion

So, What’s the Plan?

Use Inclusive Models

Inclusive Models



Inclusive Models

Is there a mistake, because "*his husband*"? Look.

Flora, China
Upper-Int

Inclusive Models

Inclusive Models

It is hard to be politic correct

Anton, Russia
Intermediate

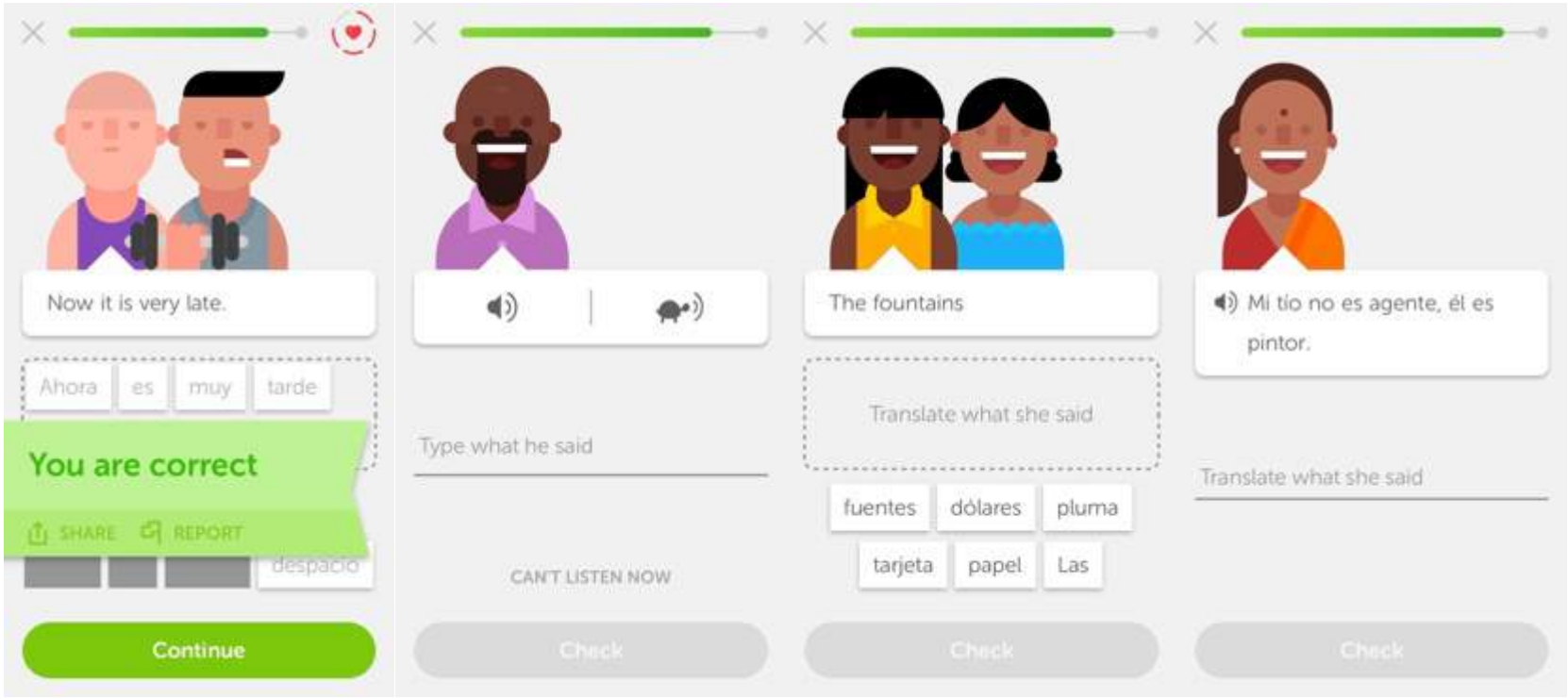
Inclusive Models

Don’t worry. You can get over it. No problem.

Vanessa, China
Intermediate

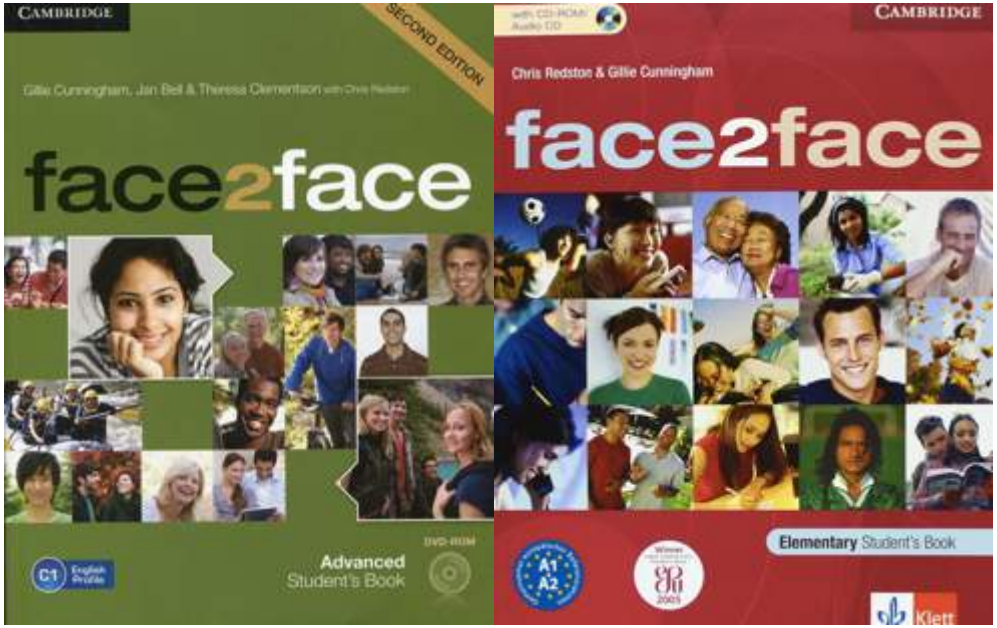
Integrate Diverse Characters

Integrate Diverse Characters



From: duolingo.com

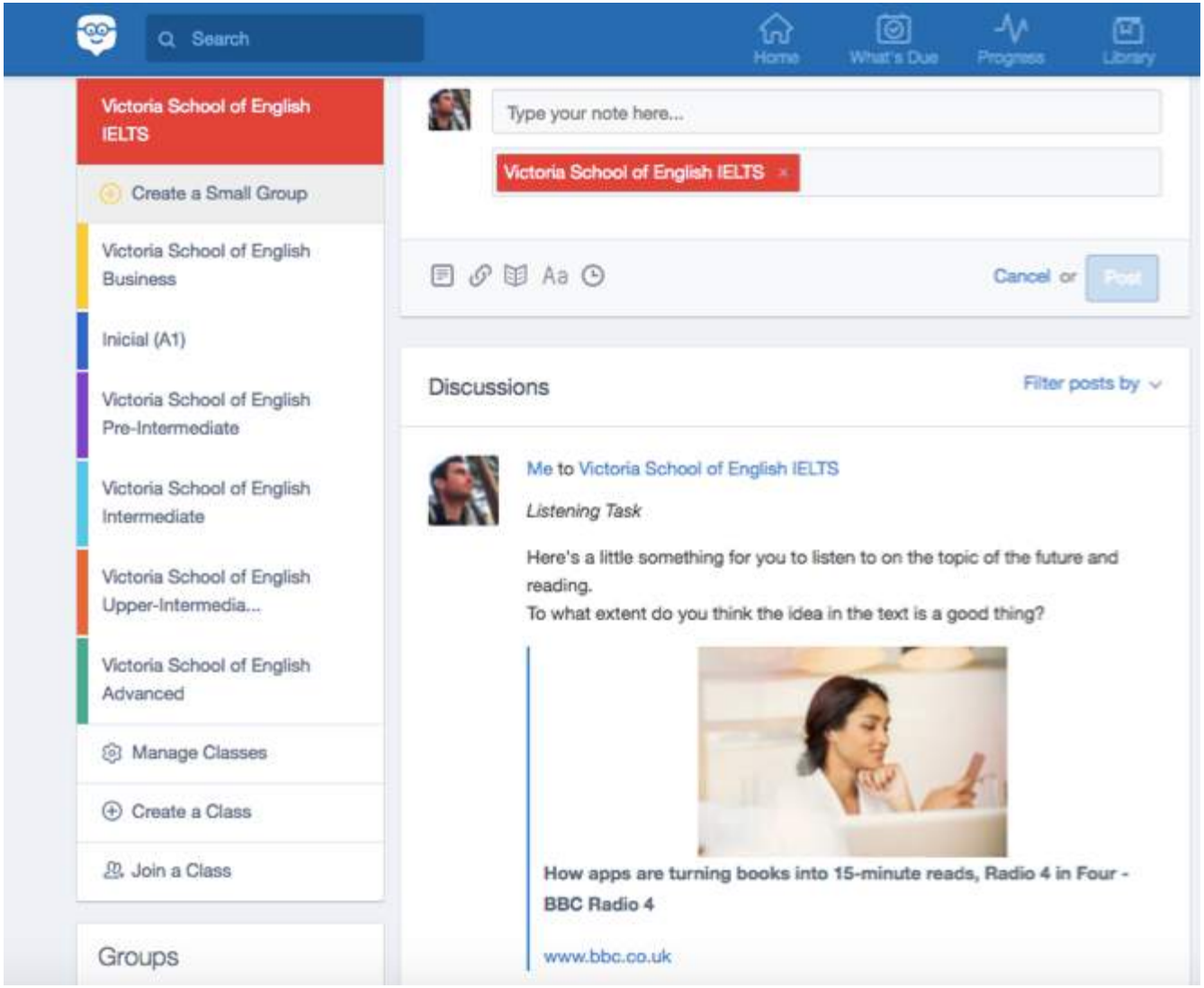
Integrate Diverse Characters



Represent people from various backgrounds, sexualities, abilities, sizes, etc. to reflect the real world and our learners.

Incorporate Topics

Incorporate Topics



Extended out-of-class reading

Incorporating Topics

An example of one of many articles posted for suggested reading

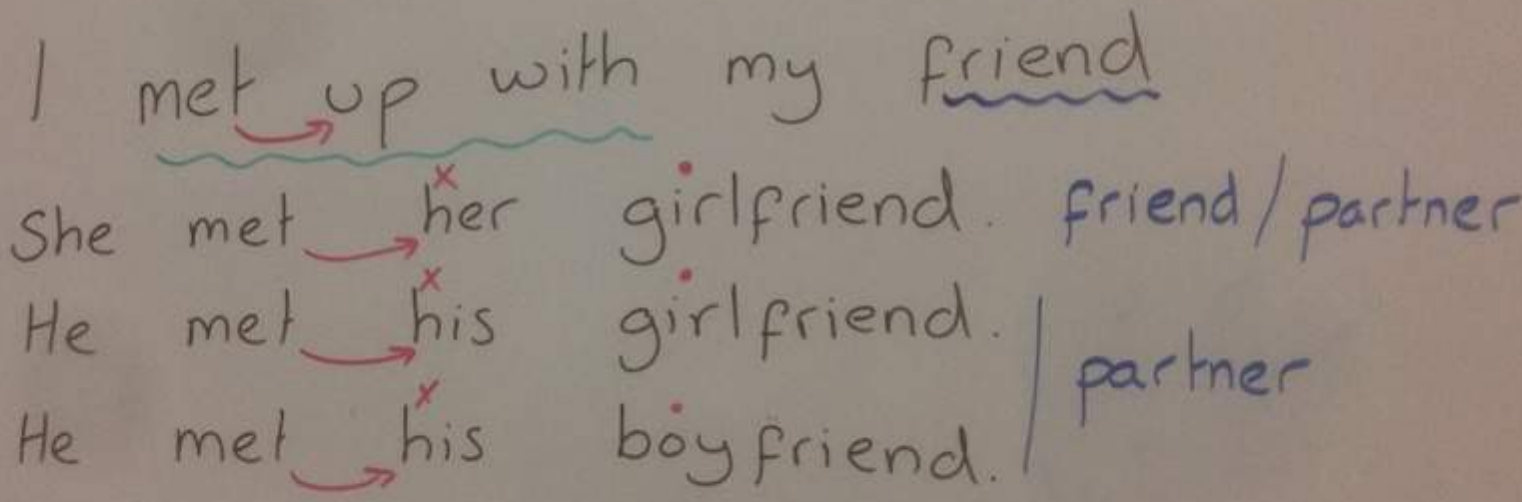
Explore Ambiguity

Explore Ambiguity

Why do you say *partner*, not *girlfriend* or *boyfriend*? It's so confusing, no?

Ana, Spain
Upper-Int

Explore Ambiguity



Explore Ambiguity

Veronica S. to Veronica's diary

This weekend was quite normal also if saturday I went to work, But fortunately I went out at 12pm.
After that I went to English Speaking lessons and when it's finished my partner and I travelled around the centre of city.
The weather was great, there was sun and since was black Friday there were a very lot of people.
So after about 2,3 hours we returned home.
In the evening I went to my colleague's birthday but I was a little bit sad because I can't saw harry potter.
I went to bed quite late.
While Sunday I got up very late. In the afternoon I did some housework and then I repeat something for my English test.
When I finished prepared some foods for the dinner and then I saw some tv on the coach with my partner. I went to bed around 10pm because today I get up early for go to work. Less...

Like • 3 Replies • Share • Follow Nov 28, 2016, 1:53 PM

Veronica's (Italy, Pre-Intermediate) Diary Entry

Avoid Over-Correction

Avoid Over-Correction

My boyfriend, she told me I can't to do it.

Vittoria, Italy
Intermediate

- Where is the mistake?
- Is it always clear?

Summary (so far)

- Challenge PARSNIP
- Use inclusive models
- Integrate a variety of characters
- Incorporate diverse topics
- Explore ambiguity
- Avoid over-correction

Questions and Discussion

Thank You

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www.victoriaschool.co.uk

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